

B. REMARKS

By this amendment, Claims 5-7, 14-16, 23-25 and 32-34 have been canceled and new Claims 37-56 have been added. Hence, Claims 1-3, 8-12, 17-21, 26-30 and 35-56 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims and the new claims do not add any new matter to this application. All issues raised in the Office Action mailed October 17, 2005 are addressed hereinafter.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 5, 14 and 23 were objected to on the basis that they depend upon canceled claims. This objection is now moot given the cancellation Claims 5, 14 and 23 as indicated herein. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 5, 14 and 23 is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABILITY OF CLAIMS

The indicated allowability of Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 24, 25, 33 and 34 is gratefully acknowledged. These claims have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of all intervening claims as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 6 and intervening Claim 5. Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 15 and intervening Claim 14. Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 24 and intervening Claim 23. Claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 33 and intervening Claim 32.

Allowable Claims 7, 16, 25 and 34 have been incorporated into new Claims 37-56. Specifically, new Claim 37 includes all of the limitations of Claim 1, allowable Claim 7 and

intervening Claim 5. New Claims 38-42 depend from new Claim 37 and include all of the limitations of new Claim 37. New Claim 42 includes all of the limitations of Claim 10, allowable Claim 16 and intervening Claim 14. New Claims 43-46 depend from new Claim 42 and include all of the limitations of new Claim 42. New Claim 47 includes all of the limitations of Claim 19, allowable Claim 25 and intervening Claim 23. New Claims 48-51 depend from new Claim 47 and include all of the limitations of new Claim 47. New Claim 52 includes all of the limitations of Claim 28, allowable Claim 34 and intervening Claim 32. New Claims 53-56 depend from new Claim 52 and include all of the limitations of new Claim 52.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 5, 8-12, 14, 17-21, 23, 26-32, 35 AND 36 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-12, 14, 17-21, 23, 26-32, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pare, Jr. et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,834,109 (hereinafter “*Pare*”) in view of *Marchetto et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,513,215 (hereinafter “*Marchetto*”). This rejection is now moot with respect to canceled Claims 5, 14, 23, 31 and 32. In view of the amendments made herein to incorporate allowable claims, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-3, 8-12, 17-21, 26-30, 35 and 36 are patentable over *Pare* and *Marchetto*. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 8-12, 17-21, 26-30, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pare* and *Marchetto* is respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5, 14 AND 23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5, 14 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pare* in view of *Marchetto* and further in view of *Roberts et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,418,558 (hereinafter “*Roberts*”). This rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 5, 14 and 23. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 5, 14 and 23

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pare* in view of *Marchetto* and further in view of *Roberts* is respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 28, 35 AND 36 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 28, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pare* in view of *Roberts* and further in view of *Marchetto*. Claim 28 was amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 33 and intervening Claim 32, as indicated herein. Claims 35 and 36 depend from Claim 28 and include all of the limitations of Claim 28. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 28, 35 and 36 are patentable over *Pare*, *Roberts* and *Marchetto*. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 28, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pare* in view of *Roberts* and further in view of *Marchetto* is respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 29-32 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pare* in view of *Roberts* and further in view of *Marchetto*. This rejection is now moot with respect to canceled Claims 31 and 32. Claims 29 and 30 depend from Claim 28 which has been amended, as indicated herein, to include the limitations of allowable Claim 33 and intervening Claim 32. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 29 and 30 are patentable over *Pare*, *Roberts* and *Marchetto*. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pare* in view of *Roberts* and further in view of *Marchetto* is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and the issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on January 12, 2006

by


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